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Atty. Dkt. No. : 865-B-PCT-US
Art Unit : 3732
Date of office action : 8-14-2008
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Amendments To The Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended) A dental hygiene apparatus, comprising:

- (a) an elongated handling means having a longitudinal axis ~~a teeth-cleaning means;~~
- (b) ~~an elongated handling means~~ a teeth-cleaning means comprising arms that secure one or more lengths of interdental material, wherein the interdental material is oriented longitudinally as related to the longitudinal axis of the handling means; and
- (c) a flexible means between the teeth-cleaning means and the handling means, wherein the flexible means is integral with the teeth-cleaning means and the handling means, and the flexible means is pliable so that ~~it can be bent~~ the interdental material can be brought laterally to either side of the longitudinal axis of the handling means to have an about 90 degrees angle between the interdental material and the longitudinal axis of the handling means ~~to the right or to the left.~~

23. (Canceled)

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24. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said interdental material is dental floss.
25. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the elongated handling means comprises a tapered portion at one end.
26. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the tapered portion is chisel-shaped or pointed.
27. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the teeth-cleaning means is capable of adhering to a new position after flex adjustment at the flexible means.
28. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 22, further comprises a guarding means for preventing a user from using the teeth-cleaning means.
29. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the guarding means comprises a locking device that fits into one or more mating recesses on the teeth-cleaning means.
30. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the guarding means comprises a thin material that securely covers parts of the teeth-cleaning means and cannot be removed without destruction of said material.
31. (Currently amended) An dental hygiene apparatus, comprising:

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- (a) an elongated handle having a longitudinal axis;
 - (b) a cleaning head comprising two arms capable of securing one or more lengths of interdental material, wherein the interdental material is oriented longitudinally as related to the longitudinal axis of the handle; and
 - (c) a flexible elbow between the cleaning head and the elongated handle, wherein the flexible elbow is integral with the cleaning head and the elongated handle, and the flexible elbow is pliable so that ~~it can be bent~~ the interdental material can be brought laterally to either side of the longitudinal axis of the handle to have an about 90 degrees angle between the interdental material and the longitudinal axis of the handle ~~to the right or to the left.~~
32. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein said interdental material is dental floss.
33. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the elongated handle comprises a tapered end which is integral with the elongated handle.
34. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the tapered end is chisel-shaped or pointed.
35. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the tapered end is pliable so that it can be bent about 90 degrees to the right or to the left.

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36. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the elongated handle comprises ridges, grooves, or a combination thereof.
37. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the apparatus, in whole or in part, is constructed of a thermoplastic resin.
38. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the cleaning head is capable of adhering to a new position after flex adjustment at the flexible elbow.
39. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 31, further comprises a guarding means for preventing a user from using the cleaning head.
40. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the guarding means comprises a locking device that fits into one or more mating recesses on the cleaning head.
41. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the guarding means comprises a thin material that securely covers parts of the cleaning head and cannot be removed without destruction of said material.